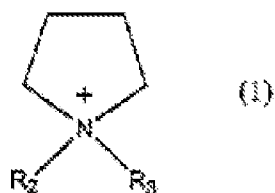


Amendments to the Claims

The following list of claims replaces all previous claim listings.

1. (Currently amended) A moderately resistive rubber member comprising a rubber-like elastic material formed through vulcanization of a moderately resistive rubber composition comprising an unvulcanized rubber base and at least one ionic liquid contained in the rubber base, the ionic liquid serving as an electrically conductive material and being a molten salt which is in liquid form at ambient temperature, wherein the ionic liquid is added in an amount of at least 0.1 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the unvulcanized rubber base, wherein the ionic liquid contains a cationic species selected from the group consisting of an imidazolium ion, a pyridinium ion, and a cationic species represented by the following formula (1);



(wherein each of R_2 and R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, or a C1-C8 alkyl group).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The moderately resistive rubber member according to claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid contains an anionic species selected from among $AlCl_4^-$, $Al_2Cl_7^-$, NO_3^- , BF_4^- , PF_6^- , CH_3COO^- , CF_3COO^- , $CF_3SO_3^-$, $(CF_3SO_2)_2N^-$, $(CF_3SO_2)_3C^-$, AsF_6^- , SbF_6^- , $F(HF)_n^-$, $CF_3CF_2CF_2CF_2SO_3^-$, $(CF_3CF_2SO_2)_2N^-$, and $CF_3CF_2CF_2COO^-$.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The moderately resistive rubber member according to claim 1, which has a volume resistivity of 1×10^3 to $1 \times 10^9 \Omega \cdot cm$.

U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/734,021
Filing Date: 10 December 2003
First Named Inventor: Hidetoshi AOKI

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)